

From: Jim/KJ7S
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 6:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Jim Anderson

CC: Congressman Chris Cannon, fin@mobilizationoffice.co...

JIM ANDERSON

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January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am outraged that Microsoft was brought to trial three years ago. The case has progressed infuriatingly slowly, and has had a negative impact not only on the technology industry, but on the economy, and ultimately the consumer as well. Now, as if to add insult to injury, Microsoft's competitors and the nine states in which they have influence are seeking to undermine the settlement and bring additional litigation against the Microsoft Corporation. This is preposterous. America was built on the principles of free enterprise and innovation, and this settlement allows the government to suffocate the very values upon which the country was founded. If Microsoft's competitors want the playing field evened, they need to market a product that is capable of competing on the same level as Microsoft's.

The settlement is generous on Microsoft's part, and is more than fair to its competitors. In the interest of wrapping up the case, Microsoft has agreed to terms and conditions that extend to various facets of the Microsoft Corporation that were not deemed unlawful by the Court of Appeals. The settlement requires Microsoft to make a number of changes, the most reasonable of which, I believe, mandates open sourcing. Microsoft plans to reveal source code to its competitors for use in producing Microsoft-compatible software and operating within the Microsoft framework. Microsoft has also agreed to provide third parties with a license to pertinent intellectual property rights, also with the intent of facilitating interaction between various software producers and Microsoft.

Absolutely no additional action needs to be taken in the federal courts. Free enterprise is legal, and Microsoft is guilty of nothing more than success in a free market economy. I urge you to support the settlement and allow the industry to recover.

Sincerely,



Jim Anderson

CC: Rep. Chris Cannon

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